

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
-----113466 220719Z /21

R 220230Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, US

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST

1. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN RAISED PENDING ARMS REQUEST WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES AT SOCIAL FUNCTION ON FEBRUARY 21. BENGELLOUN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FOUND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. HE ADDED IN A RATHER ACCUSATORY TONE THAT THE PROBLEM THEREFORE WAS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE CURRENT STATUS WAS OF THE ARMS REQUEST AND WHEN MOROCCO WOULD GET AN ANSWER.

2. VELIOTES NOTED THAT, REGARDLESS WHAT OTHERS MAY HAVE
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TOLD BENGELLOUN, THERE WAS A REAL PROBLEM WITH THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. HE THEN CLARIFIED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH OUR TRADITIONAL ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP BUT WITH THE MOROCCAN DESIRE TO USE AMERICAN ARMS IN THE SAHARA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT BENGELLOUN SHOULD BE CLEAR ON THIS POINT AND BE CERTAIN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ALSO UNDERSTANDS. IN ANSWER TO BENGELLOUN'S

PERSISTENT QUESTIONING, VELIOTES NOTED THAT FINAL DECISIONS
HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE, ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTED THEM TO BE
MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BENGELLOUN SUGGESTED THAT HE
MIGHT COME AROUND TO TALK ABOUT THE SUBJECT LATER THIS WEEK.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, MO, US
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